Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-6. (Cancelled).

Claim 7. (Currently Amended): A method for eliciting an immune response against *M. tuberculosis* in a human subject, said method comprising:

(a) obtaining a vector construct, wherein the vector construct comprises a recombinant polynucleotide comprising a plurality of sequences each encoding a *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* ~~antigens~~ antigen and each operably linked to control sequences suitable for expression in the subject; and

(b) administering said vector construct to the human subject whereby said antigens are expressed in the human subject at sufficient levels to elicit an immune response.

Claim 8. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 7, further comprising administering at least one secondary composition in a boosting step to said subject wherein the secondary composition contains one or more nucleic acid molecules encoding said plurality of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* antigens, or the secondary composition contains said plurality of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* antigens.

Claim 9. (Cancelled).

Claim 10. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 8, wherein the secondary composition comprises at least one culture filtrate protein antigen of *M. tuberculosis*.

Claim 11. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 8, wherein the secondary composition comprises at least one isolated subunit of a M. tuberculosis protein.

Claim 12. (Cancelled).

Claim 13. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 8, wherein the secondary composition comprises a live attenuated vaccine derived from a *Mycobacterium* species.

Claim 14. (Original): The method of claim 13, wherein the live attenuated vaccine is BCG.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended): A method for eliciting an immune response against *M. tuberculosis* in a human subject, said method comprising:

(a) obtaining a composition containing a plurality of recombinant polynucleotides each comprising a sequence encoding a *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* antigen operably linked to control sequences suitable for expression in the subject; and

(b) administering the composition to the human subject whereby each said antigen is expressed in the human subject at sufficient levels to elicit an immune response.

Claim 16. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 15, further comprising administering at least one secondary composition in a boosting step to said subject wherein the secondary composition contains nucleic acid molecules encoding said *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* antigen, or the secondary composition contains said *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* antigen.

Claim 17. (Cancelled).

Claim 18. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 16, wherein the secondary composition comprises at least one culture filtrate protein antigen of *M. tuberculosis*.

Claim 19. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 16, wherein the secondary composition comprises at least one isolated subunit of a *M. tuberculosis* protein.

Claim 20. (Cancelled).

Claim 21. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 16, wherein the secondary composition comprises a live attenuated vaccine derived from a *Mycobacterium* species.

Claim 22. (Original): The method of claim 21, wherein the live attenuated vaccine is BCG.

Claim 23. (Original): The method of claim 7 or claim 15, wherein the administering is transdermal administration.

Claim 24. (Cancelled).

Claim 25. (Currently Amended): A method for eliciting an immune response to *M. tuberculosis* in a human subject, said method comprising:

(a) providing a core carrier with a vector construct, wherein the vector construct comprises a recombinant polynucleotide comprising a plurality of sequences each encoding a *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* ~~antigens~~ antigen and each operably linked to control sequences suitable for expression in the subject; and

(b) administering the coated core carrier to the human subject using a particle-mediated delivery technique, wherein the *M. tuberculosis* antigens are expressed in the human subject at sufficient levels to elicit an immune response.

Claim 26. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 25, wherein the core carrier has an average diameter of about 0.5 to about 5 μm and a density sufficient to allow delivery into the subject.

Claim 27. (Original): The method of claim 25, wherein the core carrier is comprised of a metal.

Claim 28. (Original): The method of claim 27, wherein the metal is gold.

Claim 29. (Original): The method of claim 25, wherein step (b) is repeated.

Claim 30. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 25, further comprising administering at least one secondary composition in a boosting step to said subject wherein the secondary composition contains one or more nucleic acid molecules encoding said

plurality of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* antigens, or the secondary composition contains said plurality of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* antigens.

Claim 31. (Cancelled).

Claim 32. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 30, where in the secondary composition comprises at least one culture filtrate protein antigen of *M. tuberculosis*.

Claim 33. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 30, wherein the secondary composition comprises at least one isolated subunit of a *M. tuberculosis* protein.

Claim 34. (Cancelled).

Claim 35. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 30, wherein the secondary composition comprises a live attenuated vaccine derived from a *Mycobacterium* species.

Claim 36. (Original): The method of claim 35, wherein the live attenuated vaccine is BCG.

Claim 37. (Currently Amended): A method for eliciting an immune response to *M. tuberculosis* in a human subject, said method comprising:

(a) providing a core carrier coated with a composition containing a plurality of recombinant polynucleotides each comprising a sequence encoding a *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* antigen operably linked to control sequences suitable for expression in the subject; and

(b) administering the coated core carrier to the human subject using a particle-mediated delivery technique, wherein the *M. tuberculosis* antigens are expressed in the human subject at sufficient levels to elicit an immune response.

Claim 38. (Original): The method of claim 37, wherein the core carrier has an average diameter of about 0.5 to about 5 μm and a density sufficient to allow delivery into the subject.

Claim 39. (Original): The method of claim 37, wherein the core carrier is comprised of a metal.

Claim 40. (Original): The method of claim 39, wherein the metal is gold.

Claim 41. (Original): The method of claim 37, wherein step (b) is repeated.

Claim 42. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 37, further comprising administering at least one secondary composition in a boosting step to said subject wherein the secondary composition contains one or more nucleic acid molecules encoding said plurality of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* antigens, or the secondary composition contains said plurality of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* antigens.

Claim 43. (Cancelled).

Claim 44. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 42, wherein the secondary composition comprises at least one culture filtrate protein antigen of *M. tuberculosis*.

Claim 45. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 42, wherein the secondary composition comprises at least one isolated subunit of a *M. tuberculosis* protein.

Claim 46. (Cancelled).

Claim 47. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 42, wherein the secondary composition comprises a live attenuated vaccine derived from a *Mycobacterium* species.

Claim 48. (Original): The method of claim 47, wherein the live attenuated vaccine is BCG.

Claims 49-55. (Cancelled).